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FIRST ALL-NEW ISSUE!

SUPERMAN® & THE TEEN TITANS®

ACTION COMICS

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the MAN OF STEEL™ IS OUT FOR BLOOD--

--AND ONLY THIS MAN CAN STOP HIM!

THE HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE is must reading

BY JOHN BYRNE & DICK GIORDANO

IT'S AUTUMN IN THE BIG CITY!

HI! I'M CAROL SAMUELS, AND TODAY ON "SKYLINE," WE'LL LOOK AT THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE LARGEST CITY IN THE NATION.

A CITY RENOWNED IN SONG AND FABLE. A CITY WITH MORE BUSTLE AND DRIVE THAN ANY TEN OTHER CITIES ROLLED INTO ONE.

THE CITY I'M PROUD TO CALL MY HOME TOWN!

MARLIN'S BOOKS 'n THINGS

HERE, IN THESE CONSTANTLY THRIVING BY-WAYS, A POPULATION EQUIVALENT TO A MEDIUM-SIZED COUNTRY SHOPS, EATS, LOVES AND LEARNS.

SOME CALL THEM HARD. SOME CALL THEM UNFRIENDLY.

BUT TO A NATIVE, OR A TOURIST WHO KNOWS WHERE TO LOOK, THEY CAN BE THE FRIENDLIEST PEOPLE ON EARTH!

THEY KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN, THESE MODERN CLIFF-DWELLERS--

RED HOTS

--AND THERE'S NOT A LOT IN THE WORLD THAT SURPRISES...

WAIT A MINUTE! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!

CAMERA 2, CAN YOU SEE...

OH, MY GOSH!!

LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!

IT'S A BIRD!

IT'S A PLANE!

NO! IT'S...

SUPERMAN!

Squatter!

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SKOOM!

KRAM!

KRAK!

WHAT... WHAT'S HE DOING?

HE'S SMASHING THROUGH ALL THE SKY-SCRAPERS!!

HE'S GONE CRAZY!!

SUPERMAN HAS GONE MAD!!

LOOK OUT!!

HOLY...!!

TH' WHOLE TOP OF THAT TOWER'S COMIN' DOWN ON TH' STREET!!

THERE'S NO WAY ALL THOSE PEDESTRIANS CAN GET CLEAR IN TIME!

CAN'T SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING?

SOMEBODY CAN SURE TRY, MA'AM.

--AND HIS NAME IS CYBORG!!

FIRST, I'VE GOTTA ATTACH MY *WHITE SOUND DISRUPTOR*...

...THEN FIRE MY *GRAPPLING LINE* UP TO THE TOP OF THE *UNDAMAGED* TOWERS...

SHOES

LON

ART SUP

... SO I CAN DO MY BEST *TARZAN* IMPRESSION, AND SWING UP INTO THE *MIDDLE* OF THIS FALLING *JUNK*...

...AND BLAST IT ALL TO *DUST* BEFORE IT HITS THE STREET!

IT *MOVED!*

SOME OF THOSE FOLKS DOWN BELOW MAY FIND THEMSELVES *ITCHING* AND *SNEEZING* FOR A WHILE...

...BUT THAT'S A WHOLE LOT BETTER'N BEING *DEAD*.

NOW...

...LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND OUT WHAT'S GOT *INTO* THE *MAN OF STEEL!*

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

HA HA HA HA HA!!

LOOK AT THEM SCATTER!

THE ANTS! THE PITIFUL, WORTHLESS LITTLE CREATURES!!

THEY STRUGGLE THROUGH THEIR MEANINGLESS LIVES AND NEVER DREAM OF POWER.!!

POWER LIKE MINE!!

SUPERMAN! HEY! SUPERMAN!!

NO GOOD. HE'S TRIPPING OUT ON HIS OWN POWER!

DRUNK ON IT!

HE'S NOT EVEN GOING TO NOTICE ME...

...UNLESS I CAN CATCH HIS ATTENTION.

RUNK!

LIKE SO!

TONG!

WHO DARES?!?

WHO DARES ATTACK ME?!?!

UH-OH...

SUPERMAN! IT'S ME, CYBORG! DON'T YOU KNOW ME?

TAKE IT EASY, MAN!

I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!

HELP ME?

HELP ME?!?

INSOLENT FOOL!!

KRKLLKLKG

YOU'LL EAT THOSE WORDS!

YOU'LL RUE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN!

BEFORE YOU DIE!!

"...RUE...?"

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

I'VE ONLY MET HIM A COUPL'A TIMES BEFORE, BUT...

...HE DOESN'T EVEN SOUND LIKE...

OOFF!!

KRAN

YOU STUPID *FREAK!* DID YOU REALLY THINK YOUR WEAK, MECHANICAL BODY COULD STAND UP AGAINST *SUPERMAN'S?*

SKTZZAK!

AHHGH!

HE'S--*CHOPPED* MY ROBOT ARM RIGHT *OFF!!*

IT DOESN'T REALLY *HURT*, BUT THAT KIND OF *MASSIVE* DAMAGE CAN *OVER-LOAD* MY CYBERNETIC SYSTEMS!

HA HA HA HA!!

BEG, CYBORG!

BEG FOR *MERCY!* BEG FOR THE *EASY DEATH* I SHALL *NOT* GRANT YOU!

HE'S--COMPLETELY *OUT OF CONTROL!* HE'S GONNA--

UNGH!

--HE'S GONNA TEAR ME *APART* LIKE AN OLD *TINKER TOY!*

GOTTA *STOP* HIM--

-- BEFORE HE RIPS OFF *SOMETHING* THAT CAN'T BE *REPLACED!*

CAN YOU FEEL IT YET, CYBORG? CAN YOU FEEL YOUR *LIFE* SLIPPING AWAY?

FEEL HOW *HELPLESS* AND *TRAPPED* YOU ARE INSIDE A BODY THAT GROWS STEADILY *WEAKER!*

THAT GROWS MORE AND MORE *USELESS* WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT!!

ONE CHANCE...

...CAN'T *HURT* HIM... BUT MAYBE WITH... *FINGER LASER...*

ZAP!

DID IT!

THE SUDDEN BLAST CAUGHT HIM *OFF GUARD!*

ANIMAL!!

I'LL KILL YOU NOW!

KILL YOU!!!

AAHHGH!!

SYSTEM... OVERLOAD BEGINNING.

I CAN FEEL IT!

THIS IS IT, TIN MAN.

SAY GOOD-BYE...

...TO EVERY-THING!

MUSTN'T... PANIC...

SYSTEM DAMAGE...

...MAKIN' ME... WOOZY...

BUT... GOTTA... KEEP ON!!

YEAH...! KEEP ON! SLOW MY... FALL... SLOW IT FROM FATAL...

SKREEEEEE

...TO PAINFUL!

OUFF!!

GOTTA...

...CALL THE REST OF THE TITANS.

CAN'T TRUST INTERNAL SYSTEMS.

TELEPHONE!

GOTTA REACH TELEPHONE...

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

BZRIIING!

BLUE MOON DETECTIVE AGENCY.

FEELING TROUBLED AND AT THE END OF YOUR ROPE? WELL, YOU CALLED GIS, SO YOU'RE NO DOPE.

WE'LL RIGHT THE WRONGS AND SAVE THE DAY...

WE'LL PUT YOU BACK ON THE PROPER TRACK... AND MAYBE EVEN SCRATCH YOUR BACK...

GARFIELD!

I SWEAR, I CAN'T LEAVE YOU IN CHARGE FOR FIVE MINUTES WITHOUT YOU GOING GOOFY ON ME!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, WONDY.

I'LL JUST-- ER-- BUZZ OFF...

ZZZZ!

TITANS TOWER, WONDER GIRL SPEAKING.

I'M VERY SORRY FOR THAT... WHAT?

VIC? IS THAT REALLY YOU?

WHAT'S...??

NO!!

WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

C'MON, CHANGELING!

IT'S A RED ALERT!

A SUPER RED ALERT!

ZZZ??

HA! HA! HA!

THIS IS TOO RICH!

COME OUT, ALL YOU SO-CALLED SUPER-HEROES! COME OUT AND FACE ME!

TAXI

TEST YOUR *ALIEN* POWERS AGAINST THE MIGHTIEST...

HUNH?

HEY, SUPES, BABY! DON'T KNOW JUST WHAT *GAME* YOU'RE PLAYING...

... BUT YOU JUST *DUMPED* ON ONE OF THE *CHARTER MEMBERS* OF THE ONE AN' ONLY *TEEN TITANS!*

AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS...

WE DUMP BACK!!

UNFH!!

GET THE *PICTURE*, BLUE-BOY?

DOLT!

DO YOU *REALLY* THINK ME SO EASILY UNDONE?

THIS IS NOT SOME PETTY, UNTRIED, SUPER-VILLAIN YOU'RE DEALING WITH.

NOW, AND FOREVER...

...I AM SUPERMAN!!

YOWLP!!

BAH! THIS IS TOO EASY! THE TEEN TITANS ARE NOTHING TO ME

I NEED A REAL CHALLENGE.

AN OPPONENT WORTHY OF MY GODLIKE MIGHT!

HE'S TOO POWERFUL. DIDN'T HAVE A...

...CHANCE...

IT IS RIDICULOUS TO WASTE MY POWER AGAINST SUCH FOES AS THESE.

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN BATTLING *CHILDREN!*

WELL...

I MAY STILL CALL MYSELF A GIRL...

...BUT I THINK YOU'LL AGREE..

...I'M SOMETHING CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN A "CHILD."

AFTER ALL, THERE ARE VERY FEW CHILDREN WHO CAN DO...

WHOOSH!

THIS!

?!?

HE DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO GET OUT OF THE WAY.

I DROVE HIM INTO THE GROUND LIKE A TENT PEG!!

I CAN'T HAVE BEATEN HIM SO..

HM..?

OH-HH!!

HI KAL!

DO U HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IS HAPPENING?

WELL OF COURSE I DO! BUT REMEMBER WHEN A PERFECTLY LADIES DOES SOMETHING TO BE CALLED UNDERSTOOD BY A MAN?

JUST HOLD STILL, SUPERMAN, AND IN A FEW QUICK CIRCLES

MEANWHILE...

THE GOMBERTZ STREET SCHOOL FOR THE HEARING-IMPAIRED...

IT'S SO WONDERFUL HE COULD COME

YES. HAVING A REAL SUPER-HERO -- ESPECIALLY A YOUNG ONE -- HELPING THE KIDS PRACTICE THEIR AMESLAN.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE -- EDITOR

... MAKES IT MUCH HARDER FOR THEM TO OVERCOME THEIR HANDICAPS, JUST AS ME HAS. I...

JERICHO!

JERICHO, LISTEN TO THE BIRD!

...SEEMS TO HAVE DESTROY AT LEAST TWO OF THE TEEN TITANS.

REPORTING THAT AFTER A FURIOUS BATTLE, SUPERWOMAN, WHO HAS APPARENTLY TURNED AGAINST MANKIND, HAS BEATEN TWO MEMBERS OF THE NEW TEEN TITANS.

ONLY WONDER GIRL REMAINS TO STAND AGAINST HIM, AND WE CANNOT GUESS HOW LONG SHE CAN SURVIVE!

JERICHO...?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

WHAT DID HE SAY?

THE BRAVE, BRAVE LAD! HE SIGNED, "I'M GOING TO HERA -- OR DIE TRYING!"

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STILL... CAN'T GET ANYTHING FUNCTIONING... AT MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY.

IF ONLY I HAD MY NEW *PROMETHIAN BODY*.. THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE HAPPENED.

BUT--NO USE CRYIN' OVER SPILLED MILK. WONDER GIRL'S GONNA NEED HELP, SOONER OR LATER, AND CHANGELING IS STILL OUT FOR TH' COUNT.

OH NO!! HE'S BUSTED HER LASSO!

AND WITH HIS INCREDIBLE *SUMER-SPEED*, HE GRABBED HER BEFORE I EVEN SAW HIM *MOVE!*

FOOLISH, FOOLISH GIRL! HOW *EASY* IT WOULD BE TO *SNUFF* OUT YOUR LIFE NOW. BUT... BUT PERHAPS I *WON'T* KILL YOU.

NOT JUST *YET*, AT LEAST

YOU'RE VERY *BEAUTIFUL*, WONDER GIRL. THERE ARE *OTHER* THINGS WE CAN DO *BEFORE* YOU *DIE*.

WE CAN LEARN IF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN CAN *SUFFER*.

SUFFER AS *I* HAVE SUFFERED, SCOFFED AT BY ALL THE WORLD'S *BEAUTIFUL WOMEN*

GOTTA DO SOMETHING!

CAN'T RISK USING ANY OF MY *WEAPONS SYSTEMS*. MIGHT HIT *HER*, TOO.

GOTTA *SMASH* INTO HIM, HARD AS I CAN WITH ONLY ONE LEG TO PROPEL ME. MAYBE GIVE HER A CHANCE TO GET *CLEAR!*

CYBORG!

WHAT?!?

WONDER GIRL! GET CLEAR! *MOVE!* WHILE YOU *CAN!*

MISERABLE, INTERFERING *SWINE!* DON'T YOU HAVE EVEN ENOUGH *SENSE* TO STAY OUT OF THE WAY?

YOU ESCAPED *ONCE* WITH YOUR LIFE, HALF-MAN.

YOU SHALL NOT DO SO A *SECOND TIME!*

NOW YOU **DIE!!**

UNGH!

MANAGED TO *ROLL* OUT OF THE WAY.

BUT CAN'T KEEP DOIN' THAT *FOREVER!*

I'M *DONE FOR!!*

KRROM!

WHAT TH...?!?

SPLOT!

NHHAHHGHN!!

GET OUT OF ME! GET OUT OF MY BODY!!

RAISE ALL YOU LIKE SUPERMAN YOU'RE SCREWED!

JERICHO'S POWER ALLOWS HIM TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THE MOTOR REFLEXES OF OTHER LIVING BEINGS.

YOU CAN STILL THINK AND TALK, BUT YOUR MUSCLES ARE UNDER HIS DIRECT CONTROL!

MY HANDS! THEY'RE... MOVING .. AGAINST MY WILL!

YEAH -- AND WHAT JERICHO JUST SAID MAKES A LOT OF SENSE

SUPERMAN'S BODY IS DIFFERENT THAN YOUR AVERAGE HUMAN'S. JERICHO DIDN'T GET TOTAL CONTROL OF HIM!

SO HE CAN'T STAY IN THERE FOREVER, AND THE MOMENT HE COMES OUT, SUPERMAN WILL GO OFF ON HIS CRAZY RAMPAGE AGAIN.

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO, WONDY? THERE'S NOT A PRISON ON EARTH THAT CAN HOLD SUPERMAN!

I KNOW, I KNOW AND HE'S ONLY VULNERABLE TO KRYPTONITE AND MAGIC...

NEITHER OF WHICH ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD DRUGSTORE.

YOU WON'T NEED EITHER, TITANS

IT WILL BE EASY ENOUGH TO IMPRISON THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS DESTRUCTION

YOU SEE, THE MAN RESPONSIBLE IS NOT SUPERMAN

.. BECAUSE HE'S NOT SUPERMAN

I'M SUPERMAN!!

WELL, I'VE HEARD SOME STRANGE TALES IN MY DAY, SUPES, BUT THIS ONE REALLY TAKES THE BISCUIT!

CARE TO EXPLAIN IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL?

SUPES?

YOO HOO!!

SOOOO-PERMAN!!

HMM?

OH... SORRY, CHANGELING. I'VE BEEN OVER THIS TOWN AND I'VE NEVER SEEN BIRDS BATTLE WATER BEEN CARRIED BEFORE

"S-- UNDERWING"

WELL PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER SUPERMAN TELL US WHAT HAPPENED!

THE CALL WAS FROM DAVID GUNDERSEN HE CLAIMED TO BE AN ORNITHOLOGIST WHO NEEDED SUPERMAN'S AID TO CONTROL AN EXPERIMENT IN THE FIELD NEXT WAS SOMETHING SUPERMAN SAID "WHO'D CARE? I DON'T KNOW" ALL RIGHT-HERE'S WHERE I COME IN

YES, MR. GUNDERSEN. I UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION. I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO CONTACT SUPERMAN FOR YOU

"I WENT STRAIGHT TO HIS APARTMENT AND I FLEW TO GUNDERSEN'S HOME."

SUPERMAN! I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD COME!

ALWAYS GLAD TO HELP A WORTHY CAUSE MR GUNDERSEN I'VE BEEN TOLD ON THE BASICS OF YOUR INVENTION IT SOUNDS PROMISING

ALTHOUGH I'M AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE

OH THAT WILL BE MADE VERY CLEAR IN JUST A MOMENT, SUPERMAN

VERY CLEAR

"IT WAS A TRAP.

"GUNDERSEN'S INVENTION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH POLLUTION-FREE POWER.

"IT'S A MIND-TRANSFER DEVICE! IN A FRACTION OF A SECOND MY CONSCIOUSNESS, MY VERY SOUL, WAS RIPPED FROM ME...

"...AND SEALED INTO THE FRAIL, CRIPPLED BODY OF DAVID GUNDERSEN!

"WHILE GUNDERSEN BECAME SUPERMAN!"

YOU CAN STAY HERE IN THIS STOREROOM FOR NOW, "DAVID."

I WON'T KILL YOU. I'M NOT SURE WHAT EFFECT THAT WOULD HAVE ON THE TRANSFERENCE.

IN A FEW DAYS, I'LL COME BY WITH SOME FOOD AND WATER. BUT YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO THIS ROOM, SUPERMAN.

IT'S GOING TO BE YOUR HOME FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!!

THIS END UP

OBVIOUSLY, YOU ESCAPED.

YES. I HAVEN'T FOUGHT CRIME ALL THESE YEARS WITHOUT PICKING UP A FEW SHADY TRICKS.

I PICKED THE LOCK ON THE DOOR. BUT, BY THEN, "SUPERMAN'S" RAMPAGE WAS ALL OVER THE NEWS.

WHEN I HEARD YOU TITANS WERE INVOLVED, I CALLED A TAXI AND HAD MYSELF DRIVEN TO THE BATTLE-ZONE-- ANOTHER STRANGE EXPERIENCE FOR ME!

BUT...

BUT, SUPERMAN! WHAT CAN WE DO NOW? HOW CAN WE GET THE TWO OF YOU BACK IN YOUR PROPER BODIES??

CONTINUED ON 33D FACE FOLLOWING

THAT SHOULD BE EASY. I CHECKED THE CONTROL CIRCUITRY ON GUNDERSEN'S INFERNAL MACHINE BEFORE I LEFT HERE.

HE NEEDED SOMETHING HE COULD OPERATE QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY, BEFORE I HAD THE CHANCE TO REALIZE WHAT HE WAS UP TO.

SO IT'S A SIMPLE ON-OFF PROCESS.

A FLIP OF A SWITCH SHOULD PUT US BACK IN OUR PROPER SELVES...

...LIKE SO!

NOOOO!!

OKAY, JERICHO. YOU CAN LEAVE MY BODY NOW. AND... THANKS!

I'M... BACK...

BACK IN MY OWN CRIPPLED, USELESS BODY! TRAPPED AGAIN IN A WORLD THAT SCORNS ME! THAT FORCES ME INTO OBSCURITY!!

DON'T BE SO QUICK TO BLAME THE WORLD FOR YOUR PROBLEMS, GUNDERSEN. TRUE, THE FATES DEALT YOU A ROTTEN HAND...

...I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW IT FEELS TO BE INSIDE A BODY THAT DOESN'T DO WHAT YOU WANT IT TO.

BUT IT'S NOT YOUR BODY THAT MAKES YOU A CRIPPLE, GUNDERSEN.

HISTORY IS FULL OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO OVERCAME INCREDIBLE HANDICAPS.

HELEN KELLER, WHO BECAME ONE OF OUR GREATEST AUTHORS, EVEN THOUGH BLIND, DEAF, AND MUTE; DOUGLAS BADER, THE LEGLESS FIGHTER ACE OF WORLD WAR TWO; FRANKLYN ROOSEVELT, WHO BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, EVEN THOUGH CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR.

AND JERICHO, HERE. HE CANNOT SPEAK, BUT THAT DID NOT STOP HIM FROM BECOMING A SUPER-HERO!

YOU TOOK MY POWERS, AND BECAME NOTHING MORE ...THAN A COMMON HOODLUM!

NO--

IT'S NOT YOUR BODY THAT CRIPPLES YOU, GUNDERSEN. IT'S YOUR MIND!

ELSEWHERE:

PARIS, FRANCE. TEN HOURS LATER.

MONSIEUR L-- YOUR AMERICAN PAPERS.

THANK YOU, COLETTE. I SUPPOSE THEY'RE *FULL* OF THE USUAL *DRIVEL* ABOUT THAT *ROMAN-JAY*, SUPERMAN?

OUI, MONSIEUR. ZEE *DAILY PLANET* 'AS A FRONT PAGE STORY ABOUT ZEE BATTLE BETWEEN SUPAIRMAN AND ZEE TEEN TITANS!

MM. BY *CLARK KENT*, ALSO AS *USUAL*. FUNNY, *LOIS LANE* WAS THE HOTTEST REPORTER ON THE *PLANET* BEFORE *KENT* CAME ALONG.

AND NOW IT SEEMS SHE COMES IN SECOND ON ALL THE *TOP* STORIES -- AT LEAST THE ONES INVOLVING *SUPERMAN*.

DAILY PLANET

SUPERMAN EXONERATED

HERO VICTIM OF "MIND SWITCH"

TITANS IN GOOD HEALTH SAY DOCTORS

JERICHO DECLARED HERO OF HOUR

THAT'S SOMETHING THAT HADN'T REALLY *OCCURRED* TO ME UNTIL NOW. *CLARK KENT* ALWAYS GETS THE BEST *SUPERMAN* STORIES.

THERE *MUST* BE SOME KIND OF *CONNECTION* BETWEEN KENT AND SUPERMAN.

AND *LEX LUTHOR* IS JUST THE MAN TO FIND OUT EXACTLY *WHAT* THAT CONNECTION *IS*!!

PLANET

ERMAN ATED

TO BE CONTINUED... IN SUPERMAN #2 ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS!

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IN THE BEGINNING...

Way, way back, in 1938, the Industry which became the Comics of today was barely embryonic. There were a lot of titles, exploding onto the scene, spurred by the success of Malcolm Wheeler-Nicholson's *New Fun Comics*. They were born out of simple economic necessity. Reprinting popular strips from the Sunday Funnies newspaper supplements was a cheap way to keep the presses running, and if the presses were kept running, they didn't have to be geared up or cleaned too often, or any of those other time-and-money users.

But even so successfully exploited a market as the Sunday Funnies reprints could not sustain itself forever. It wasn't too long before the publishers turned their attention to what was, for the time and the industry, a fairly daring concept: *new material*.

Out of that decision to print specially commissioned work came the Comics we know today, and in the forefront of that genesis, as one the first all-new-material books, was *Action Comics*. And, of course, it was that first issue of *Action*, cover dated June 1938, which gave the world something much, much more than stories no one had seen before. It gave the world something that would sustain the Industry to the present day. It gave the world Superman.

Over the years, then, *Action* has always had a very special place in the Legend of Superman. And so it was not without some trepidation that I set about steering the course for what is, after all, one of DC Comics' longest running titles.

And I brought it on myself, too. In the start, when the revitalization of Superman was first discussed, it was decided that I would write and pencil *Superman* and a team-up title for which we would subsequently invent a title (*DC Comics Presents* having gone the way of *All Flash*), while Marv Wolfman and Jerry Ordway would handle the creative chores on *Action Comics*.

The intent was to create a title in which the name of Superman could be prominently featured, along with the name/logo of the guest star. But the more I thought about it, the more I felt that was the wrong direction. For one thing, I never much cared for those logo-meets-logo covers. They looked far too busy, to me. Plus, the use of a guest star's logo presented some interesting potential for the mangling of the English language. Would it be, for instance, ***Superman And... The Fury Of Firestorm, the Nuclear Man?*** And how would it have looked if the issue you're now holding was ***Superman And... Tales of the New Teen Titans?***

Finally came a day I was sitting in Andy Helfer's office, with Marv, and we got down to cases. We needed a title for this third book, and we needed it soon.

Marv was feeling a little left out, since my request for a new first issue was being granted not once, but twice, with both *The Man of Steel* and the new *Superman* being introduced with #1's. Inheriting *Action Comics* Marv would be starting with a number close to *six hundred!*

Then, too, was the fact Marv and I wanted clearly defined separate identities for the three titles. Easy enough for two, since Marv and I have different approaches to the pure mechanics of writing, and Jerry and I don't draw in the same style. But I was presented the task of creating a special, unique identity for the team-up book, even though it would be drawn and written by the same guy doing *Superman* -- me.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized I wanted to *make* the team-up title a very basic, primal sort of comic. It would be the place we addressed Superman's place in the community of heroes. For that reason I resolved to deal as little as possible with the secret identities of the characters involved. I also wanted to keep the stories to one issue each, and avoid messy cross-over continuity with the regular titles of the guest stars. If I could keep the tales "clean" in this fashion, it would be easy enough for the *readers* to figure out where they fit relative to the rest.

And the more I thought along those lines, the more I realized I was building a comic that would be less "cerebral" than the stories Marv and I planned for the non-team titles. None of these were going to be great mind-benders, but it would be in *Superman* and Marv's title that we would explore Clark Kent's place in the universe, his attitudes towards the world and Superman. In the team-up title, then, the key would be... action.

Well, of course it was blindingly obvious the moment we thought of it, sitting there in Andrew's office. We wanted a good, powerful, but basically *generic* title for the team-up book. What could be better than *Action Comics*? •

And that, of course, meant we needed another title for Marv and Jerry's book, and Marv immediately suggested *The Adventures of Superman*. We all loved the old George Reeves TV series of the same name, so it seemed perfect. From my perspective, it even went a long way to filling another special niche. The exploits of Superboy, Superman's teenage self, were featured in *Adventure Comics* when I was a kid. Marv's title was close enough that I immediately started referring to his book as *Adventure*.

Marv, however, did not get his #1 after all. It was decided to maintain a necessary respect for the old "pre-us" *Superman* by transferring the numbering to *Adventures of Superman*. Marv's "new" title started (a week ago) with #423.

So, there I was with *Superman and Action Comics* -- the two titles most closely associated with the legendary adventures of the Man of Tomorrow. And did I suffer maybe the tiniest pangs of stage-fright at the concept? Is the Archbishop of Canterbury English?

The next job was to decide who would share the spotlight with Superman in *Action*. Naturally I wanted to "stack the deck," and get as many fan favorites into the first few issues as possible, but I didn't want to fall into the "insert hero here" school of team-ups. I'd had my fill of those doing other team-up books in the past.

So, for *Action* I started by listing off in my head all the DC characters I'd loved so much as a kid, reading their books. It amounted to quite a list indeed -- and it immediately presented problems. Many of those heroes were in very altered forms from when I'd read them, nearly twenty-five years before.

Green Lantern, for example. I wanted to do a *Hal Jordan* story, because he was the Green Lantern I grew up with. But Andy Helfer and Steve Englehart had just spent about a year establishing the integrity of the Green Lantern *Corps*. They didn't want a solo-Green Lantern story appearing anywhere for a while.

Then, too, there was the Spectre. I liked the idea of Superman coming into close contact with a character so much more powerful than he -- especially one also created by Jerry Siegel -- and I'd even gone so far as to draw up a cover for such a meeting. Unfortunately the Spectre turned out to be tied up. A memo had gone out to that effect, in fact -- a month before I started working for DC.

Luckily the Teen Titans *were* available. I'd had fun with the Titans in last summer's Annual, and Marv expressed his pleasure with the way I handled his babies; so I felt that was the best place to start. These were not, of course, the Titans whose adventures I enjoyed as a teenager, but I liked the new guys, and Wonder Girl was still there.

For the future? Next, the Phantom Stranger, in a story that takes Superman a considerable distance *outside* his usual arena. Then the concluding chapter of a three-part cross-over and *Legends* tie-in. In *Action* #586 look for Superman to meet some high-ranking members of Jack Kirby's New Gods.

Then look for the Green Lantern Corps (or some of 'em -- this should make it easy to spot my favorites), the Demon, the Martian Manhunter, Mister Miracle, and, in a story continued from an upcoming issue of *Superman*, just about *everybody*. And that brings us pretty close to issue #600, with a very special tale George Pérez and I are concocting even as you read this. *Shhhh*. Can't tell you anything about it just yet.

As we used to say in the days I first started reading *Action Comics*: Be there -- or be square!